



CROYDON OPPORTUNITY ZONE

September 2010, Issue— 10

EXCITING

- Summer Day Trips
- Autism Program
- Camden Bangladesh Mela
- DDA workshop in partnership with DLS

It's a milestone! APASENTH is now in Croydon. Our first Opportunity Zone (Day Care Centre) of APASENTH - out of Tower Hamlets- has been opened at Croydon on 10th of August 2010.

Large number of people from local multicultural community had been attending the colourful launching ceremony at Humdard Centre, Mayfield Recreation Ground, Thornton Heath, Surrey. Amongst the attendees were Croydon council; Councillor Humayun Kabir; Joannah Weightman, Joint Commissioner - Learning Disability Croydon Social Services & Croydon PCT; Saida Karim, Asian Families Development Worker, Croydon Social Services; Thomas Abraham, Care Manager, Croydon Social Services; Rita Amuson, Croydon Social Services; PC Angel Neofitov, Norbury Police Station; Arshia Sheikh, Croydon Association of Muslim and Asian Carers; Ghazala Sheikh, Croydon Association of Muslim and Asian Carers; N. S. Ben Rabah, Carer, Croydon; M. A. Gafur, Bangladesh Welfare Association Croydon; and many more. A number of service users and their parents took part in the event.



Croydon Social Services has demonstrated a huge support to APASENTH in its expansion to Croydon. This was again expressed when Joannah thanked the organisation for extending their services up to this part of the capital and expressed hope that it is going to be a thriving service here.

Councillor Humayun Kabir termed the expansion of APASENTH to Croydon as the pioneer project of

future Croydon-Tower Hamlets partnership.

Mahmud Hasan, director, APASENTH said at the opening ceremony: we have started the partnership between Croydon and Tower Hamlets today which will be strengthen in the days to come. We embarked upon this project about two and half years ago, carried out all assessments through outreach services, parents were consulted and now we are here with our commitment and dedication. He thanked Croydon Social Services, specially, Joannah Weightman and Saida Karim for their utmost help and cooperation.

Amir Hussain, Chair of APASENTH, welcoming the audience, said that for the last 26 years we are serving the people with learning disabilities in Tower Hamlets with a vision. We want them to be able to control their own lives and to choose their own lifestyles. With the same vision and dedication we are here in Croydon. He sought all out cooperation from the community in this regard. Tobaris Ali, general secretary of APASENTH was also present at the event. Muhammed Sattar, the newly appointed coordinator of APASENTH Croydon Opportunity Zone was officially introduced at the event. A documentary film depicting the beginning and growth of APASENTH was shown at the ceremony.

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AWARENESS MEETING

APASENTH, Advice and Advocacy Services has arranged a Benefit Awareness Meeting on 21/07/2010 at 11.00am in Montifore Centre. The prime objective of the meeting was to inform clients about the recent changes in benefits. A group of about 50 clients along with management committee members attended the meeting and received through information, an open question and answer session gave service users the opportunity to seek further clarification on matters. Syeda Gulshan Ara, Project Leader led the meeting through providing information and answering query with support from MD Chowdhury, project worker of the Advice and Advocacy Project.



How to contact us:

Advice and Advocacy Services

Advice Line: 02073750554 Ex 204 Or 212.



SUMMER DAY TRIPS — 2010

Four (4) summer day trips took place this summer, Parents and carers were spoiled to trips that took place in different locations across the country. The first trip was in Portsmouth, where almost a 100 people from 19 different families enjoyed a cruise along Gun Warf Quays. Other trips included; Port Lympne Animal and Safari Park, Kent; Boumemouth Sea Side and Legoland Theme Park! A massive 390 people (parents/family) attended to the different trips and were able to benefit from the short break service. Look forward to seeing you all next year!



EVENT — CARER'S WEEK

On 16th June-2010 APASENTH celebrated Carer's Week entitled; "A Life of My Own". The event offered free information and advice, as well as a free dental check to keep our smiles nice and healthy! Free eye and diabetes tests were also available. Cancer Screening workshops were held to raise awareness. Promotional gifts and



information from DLR proved to be popular – watch this space for further updates on this! The day was rounded off with refreshments, carer's enjoyed a day of meeting with others, being pampered but also went home with vital information for their own and family' health and wellbeing.



OPPORTUNITY ZONE

Football match - Learners VS Staff

Learners from opportunity Zone played 6 a side football match and won the challenge by biting staff.



SPORTS DAY - Waltham Forest

OZ Learners contributed in Waltham Forest sports event and engaged in different types of sports event including Cricket, Fitness gym, soft play and football competition. The group did extremely well in CRICKET and became the runner-up.



Learners Achievement Certificate Ceremony

Congratulation to all learners who received certificate from Tower Hamlets college on aspiration programme for their all hard works and achievement.



CLDS Meet the team

Annual check-up day from Community Learning Disability Services took place at Beaumont House. This programme creates aware about glucose sugar level, hearing test, Diabetes and weight towards OZ learners, which makes it better to have update about individual health and referral made to the appropriate service.



Parents meeting

A parents meeting held on 3 August for Opportunity Zone Parents had open question to ask member of staff about services and briefing given about the service Opportunity Zone provided. It has given parents to acknowledge any issues that they felt need to be addressed. Parents found it





ASIAN PARENTS AUTISM SUPPORT PROGRAMME

After high demand and success of the Asian Parents Autism Support Day last year; APASENTH; Children's and Families Zone; once again teamed up with the National Autistic Society Tower Hamlets to run Asian Parents Autism Support Programme over two days.

Throughout the two day programme, parents and carers were given more information about autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), an opportunity to challenge common myths about autism, offered parents information on practical strategies to support communication, learning and managing difficult behaviour. The number of ASD diagnosed children is on the rise; parental involvement is much needed to support parents better meet their child(s) needs. Presentations were done in both English and Bengali to counter language barriers, where then great discussions took place, parents were given a safe environment to share their difficulties and struggles, one parent said; *'I have never attended anything like this and have struggled a lot, now I know what is available - there is hope'*

The programme concluded with a presentation from Sibylle Janert who spoke at length about the FEDL- Functional Emotional Development Levels by Dr Greespan and S.Wieder. Clips of ASD children and their families at each level gave parents a real insight to where their child's development was at and where they need to work towards. We hope the day allowed parents to go away feeling more confident in understanding their child's needs and supporting him or her as they grow up.

A special thanks to Isobel Gammer; National Autistic Society, who has been amazing to work with on this project and for being so constant with you efforts! Wish you all the best with whatever you go onto do. 😊

CAMDEN BANGLADESH MELA

On 4th July 2010 Learners of Training and Opportunities zone and staff from all projects of APASENTH took part in promoting APASENTH at the annual Camden Bangladesh Mela. Learners sold 'Bravo Bangladesh' head bands and Bangladesh flag stamped with APASENTH logo. Proceeds of sale later distributed between all participating

Learners as a mark of appreciation and encouragement to them. By selling at the Mela learners gained confidence and learnt practical self employment skills to better equip them to take part in further events as well as paid employment.

Director Mahmud Hasan joined at the Mela to spend the day with learners and staff to lend a helping hand and to support the learners as well as treating them all for a spot of lunch for their durable efforts!



CAFÉ TEO (TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES CAFÉ)

On 25th June the long awaited café TEO started it's journey with flying colours, learners running it with oozed enthusiasm and excitement. They were trained in using electronic till and other equipment that's generally used in a café and learning new skills each day from serving customers to working behind the counter and general logistic of running a business. Takings not great at present due to Ramadan but we are hoping once the word gets out about café TEO, we will be a booming success. Why not drop by for some lunch and try out our freshly made Sandwiches or a nice cup of coffee to encourage our learners. Our Café TEO open every Friday from 10am till 4pm we are situated by the reception at the Montifiore Centre. Hope to see you there in support for this great venture.

APASENTH
Café TEO
 Learners from Training and Employment Opportunities are delighted to let you know that Café TEO which is now open

Tea, coffee, drinks, sandwiches, cake, biscuits, crisp fruits and nibbles

Opening hours: Friday 10:00am to 5:00pm
 Please pop in and see what we have to offer

Café TEO
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Sadia Akhter (Senior Support Worker) Farewell

Friday, 13 August 2010 was Sadia Akhter's last day of working with APASENTH Home and Community Services, after 5 long years of hard work and dedication. We wish her all the best in her new exciting post!



Electronic Monitoring System (Ezi Tracker)

APASENTH is practicing the new electronic monitoring system and providing day-to-day training support to care worker to familiarise the new system even though full training has been provided. APASENTH Senior staffs have received system-monitoring training from Ezi Tracker.



RECRUITMENT - HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Home Care Assistant Recruitment

We have successfully recruited a pool of 20 Home Care Assistant and now waiting to start their Skills for Care – Common Induction Training Programme.



Care Organiser Position Advertised

This is an exciting opportunity for a creative person with experience of working in the community care environment. The post holder must have good educational background and at least have GNVQ/NVQ 3 in Health and Social Care or equivalent. A minimum of 2 years experience working within statutory, private or voluntary sector and possess good administration/clerical skills. For details please check our website—
<http://www.apasenth.org.uk/menu/job-/5/5/1>

DDA WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DISABILITY LAW SERVICES

A 10 weeks long programme was successfully completed on 23rd of July by Training and Employment Opportunities (TEO) learners on how Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) can help service users with learning delay to get and retain employment, skills to deal with any issues or concern at the work place before or during their employment. By doing this they learnt what help is out there within the legal framework, where to get help and how to get it if someone needs it, who to contact if someone has issues or problems about unfair treatment at work. Learners produced a video on that with the help from Green Shoes Art and Drama group from their 10 weeks hard work which will be available soon for others to get benefit out of it.



DRAMA ON BENGALI DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY

Learners from Training and Employment Opportunities (TEO) staged one part of their drama on DDA which they produced from their 10 weeks hard work for the audience on Bengali Disability Awareness Day. Luran Crowley from Greens Shoes was present to join the audience and support during presentation. Commissioning Officer Tara Kaur watched the drama. The event was hosted by President Learners Forum, Opportunity Zone; Shak Shadi of APASENTH.

APASENTH

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Turning challenges into opportunities



APASENTH is one of the leading BAME organisations, working for people with learning & multiple disabilities, their carers and parents, in Tower Hamlets and Greater London since 1984.

www.apasenth.org.uk